

Name: Barbara Strachan

Business Name: Michigan Chapter, Associated General Contractors (AGC)

1. What benefits did you hope for when you decided to be part of the RSA?

We hoped the MiRSA would give CRAFT (Career Readiness & Fitness Training) the opportunity to become involved in a meaningful way with the students in the Lansing School District and to be able to tap into students who are looking beyond a college career.

2. So far, of the benefits you expected, which have you actually seen?

We have been able to measure a significant increase in student employability skills facilitated by the Michigan Center for Career & Technical Education. We have also seen an increase from one apprentice placement last year to six apprentice placements this year.

3. Were there benefits other than those you expected?

We were able to expand the program to CRAFT II (more indepth, specific, hands-On training in construction crafts. We were also delighted to see an increase in student and parent participation.

4. What results are you expecting from the RSA over the next year or two?

Our goal is to reach more students and to expand the CRAFT II class into an accredited construction career academy for the Lansing Tri-County area.

5. Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with the following statements, and, especially why:

a. "MiRSAs" are much better way for government to work with business"

Yes, because MiRSAs respond to the local market needs, ie economy, workforce pool, etc.

b. They make Michigan a more attractive location for business.

Yes, because MiRSAs respond to local market needs and investments are made where they are needed.

c. My participation improves the odds that my business will succeed.

Yes, because my participation with MiRSA improves the quality of the local workforce pool and the end product.

d. It has already had an impact on my bottom line.

Because CRAFT is an investment in the future workforce, there has been no impact to the bottom line, yet.

e. The RSA has other kinds of value to my business.

Yes, the MiRSA has enabled local contractors to come and work together toward a common goal and it has been very rewarding interacting with the youth of Lansing

f. I would encourage other employers to get involved with a MiRSA.

Yes, it is our hope that the success of CRAFT made available through MiRSA will draw other employees into participation. We believe in the kids of Lansing and we want them to succeed. We have seen firsthand the positive influence that CRAFT has had on students and their ability to move into meaningful careers with a future.

The notes above are an accurate account of my interview regarding the Michigan Regional Skills Alliances in which I participate. I authorize the RSA and the State of Michigan to disseminate the story publicly.

☒ You may use my name and the name of my business.

☐ You may not use identifying information, only the content of the interview

Paula Strocher

Signature

August 23, 2006

Date